

In the claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I):

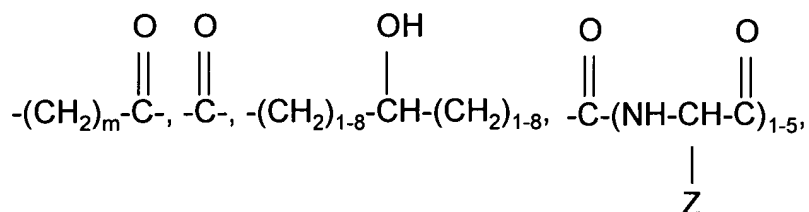
$$R_1-(CH_2CH_2O)_n-CH_2CH_2-X-Y-NH-(CH_2)_p-CHO \text{ (I)}$$

wherein

R_1 is a capping group,

X is O or NH,

Y is selected from the group consisting of



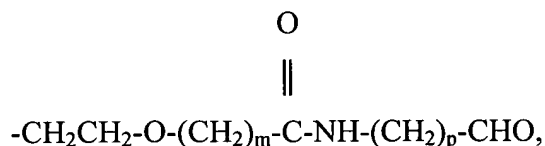
Z is a side chain of an amino acid,

m is from 1 to 17,

n is from 10 to 10,000, and

p is from 1 to 3,

wherein said capping group is halogen, epoxide, maleimide, orthopyridyl disulfide, tosylate, isocyanate, hydrazine hydrate, cyanuric halide, N-succinimidyloxy, sulfo-N-succinimidyloxy, 1-benzotriazolyloxy, 1-imidazolyloxy, p-nitrophenyloxy,



hydrogen, hydroxy, benzyloxy, lower alkyl, lower cycloalkyl, lower alkenyl, aryl or heteroaryl.

2-86. (Cancelled).